



Dear Fellow Arkansan,

My top priority for Arkansas is creating jobs and putting our economy back on track. As the first Arkansan to chair the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, I am using this position as a pipeline for jobs and economic opportunity for our state.

Since taking over the leadership of what I consider "Arkansas's Committee," I have helped communities secure rural development dollars for rural broadband, clean drinking water and other critical services. Last month, I announced nearly \$1 million in grants for Arkansas small businesses, such as our poultry producers, to become more energy efficient. This year's funding is an increase of twelve times last year's amount of \$79,000 and adds \$4 million in economic activity.

The Agriculture Committee oversees the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is the largest investor in our rural communities, providing funds for such things as fire trucks and emergency equipment, clean drinking water, hospital improvements, libraries, broadband services, and workforce development training. Most of our communities would not have the resources to make these economic development investments without this funding.

Since 2001, I have delivered more than \$3.2 billion in rural economic development funding to Arkansas communities. As Chairman, I can now see that even more of these dollars flow to Arkansas's rural economy.

The Senate has passed my "Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act," which includes the largest increase in funding for school lunch programs ever and provides children with more nutritious school meals that meet high nutritional standards set by the Institute of Medicine.

Wall Street Reform is now law and includes my proposals cracking down on risky financial deals that caused the near-collapse of the American financial system — protecting Arkansans' retirement funds, savings accounts and college funds.

Arkansas's logging, lumber and paper industries are significant to our state's economic success. That's why within weeks of becoming Chairman, I secured an extra \$4 million in timber funding for the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests—a 30 percent increase that will help keep sawmills open and employing 700 Arkansans. In addition, I am working with the Administration to deliver much-needed disaster assistance for our producers who were devastated by flooding last year.

With agriculture providing a job for one out of every four Arkansans and contributing more than \$16 billion each year to the state's economy, this chairmanship is a huge victory for Arkansas.

Now that an Arkansan is holding the gavel in the Senate Agriculture Committee, the policies that affect our state will be written by someone who is committed to doing what's best for Arkansas and for our way of life.

As always, please feel free to [contact me with your comments, suggestions and concerns](#). I look forward to hearing from you.

An Important Note About the Lincoln eLetter

According to U.S. Senate Internet Services Usage Rules and Policies, my office cannot distribute e-newsletters and certain other forms of communication for the 60 day period immediately before the date of a primary or general election. Therefore, the next Lincoln eLetter will not appear in your inbox until November.

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